

1 CLAIMS

2 1. A method for operating a computing device during an initial first boot
3 sequence, comprising:

4 prompting a user to enter a zip code;
5 determining corresponding configuration information from the zip code;
6 and
7 using the configuration information to configure the computing device.
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9 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the prompting comprises
10 presenting a graphical user interface that requests the user to enter the zip code.
11

12 3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the determining comprises
13 looking up the configuration information in a data structure.
14

15 4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the determining comprises
16 querying a local database to lookup the configuration information.
17

18 5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the determining comprises:
19 passing the zip code over a network to a remote site, the remote site having
20 a database that correlates the zip code and corresponding configuration
21 information;

22 querying the database at the remote site using the zip code to lookup the
23 corresponding configuration information; and

24 returning the configuration information from the remote site.
25

1 6. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising populating data
2 fields with the configuration information.

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4 7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the configuration
5 information includes a time setting, and the using the configuration information
6 comprises automatically configuring the time / date parameters of the computing
7 device with the time setting.

8
9 8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the configuration
10 information includes a city name and a state name, and the using the configuration
11 information comprises automatically configuring the city and state names for the
12 computing device.

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14 9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the configuration
15 information includes a telephone area code, and the using the configuration
16 information comprises automatically configuring the telephone area code for the
17 computing device.

18
19 SUB A 1 > 10. A method for operating a computing device, comprising:
20 receiving a zip code;
21 looking up corresponding configuration information based on the zip code;
22 and
23 populating data fields used to configure the computing device with the
24 configuration information.
25

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11. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising presenting the configuration information to a user and prompting the user to confirm accuracy of the configuration information.

12. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising configuring the computing device using the configuration information.

13. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the configuration information includes a time setting, and further comprising automatically configuring the time / date parameters of the computing device with the time setting.

14. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the configuration information includes a city name and a state name, and further comprising automatically filling in data fields holding the city name and the state name.

15. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the configuration information includes a telephone area code, and further comprising automatically filling in a data field holding the telephone area code.

SUB A27 16. A method for operating a computing device, comprising:
receiving a zip code;
establishing a connection to a remote database server, the database server correlating zip codes with corresponding configuration information;
passing the zip code to the database server;

1 looking up the corresponding configuration information correlated with the
2 zip code at the database server;
3 returning the configuration information from the database server to the
4 computing device;
5 storing the zip code at the computing device;
6 populating data fields used to configure the computing device with the
7 configuration information; and
8 prompting the user to confirm accuracy of the configuration information.

10 17. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the establishing comprises
11 connecting to the remote database server over the Internet.

13 18. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the establishing comprises
14 connecting to the remote database server over a wireless network.

16 19. A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising configuring the
17 computing device using the configuration information.

19 20. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the configuration
20 information includes a time setting, and further comprising automatically
21 configuring the time / date parameters of the computing device with the time
22 setting.

1 21. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the configuration
2 information includes a city name and a state name, and further comprising
3 automatically filling in data fields holding the city name and the state name.
4

5 22. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the configuration
6 information includes a telephone area code, and further comprising automatically
7 filling in a data field holding the telephone area code.
8

9 SUB A37 23. A system comprising:
10 a computing device;
11 a zip code database that correlates zip codes and corresponding
12 configuration information; and
13 the computing device prompting a user to enter a zip code and using the zip
14 code to look up the corresponding configuration information in the zip code
15 database.
16

17 24. A system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computing device has a
18 screen and presents a graphical user interface on the screen to prompt the user to
19 enter the zip code.
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21 25. A system as recited in claim 23, wherein the zip code database
22 resides at the computing device.
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26. A system as recited in claim 23, wherein the zip code database is remote from the computing device.

27. A system as recited in claim 23, wherein the zip code database is remote from the computing device, and the computing device passes the zip code over a network to the remote zip code database where the zip code is used to query the zip code database to lookup the corresponding configuration information.

28. A system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computing device populates data fields used in configuring the computing device with the configuration information.

29. A system as recited in claim 23, wherein the configuration information includes a time setting, and the computing device automatically configures the time / date parameters with the time setting.

30. A system as recited in claim 23, wherein the configuration information includes a city name and a state name, and the computing device automatically configures the city and state names.

31. A system as recited in claim 23, wherein the configuration information includes a telephone area code, and the computing device automatically configures the telephone area code for the computing device.

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32. A system comprising:

a portable computing device having a processor, memory, a small-area screen, a data entry mechanism, and a transceiver for data communication;

a zip code database server remote from the portable computing device, the zip code database server correlating zip codes with corresponding configuration information; and

the computing device prompting a user to enter a zip code;

the computing device establishing a data connection with the zip code database server and sending the zip code from the transceiver to the zip code database server;

the zip code database server determining the corresponding configuration information from the zip code and returning the configuration information back to the computing device; and

the computing device storing the configuration information in the memory.

33. A system as recited in claim 32, wherein the computing device populates data fields used in configuring the computing device with the configuration information.

34. A system as recited in claim 32, wherein the configuration information includes a time setting, and the computing device automatically configures the time / date parameters with the time setting.

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1 35. A system as recited in claim 32, wherein the configuration
2 information includes a city name and a state name, and the computing device
3 automatically configures the city and state names.

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5 36. A system as recited in claim 32, wherein the configuration
6 information includes a telephone area code, and the computing device
7 automatically configures the telephone area code for the computing device.

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9 SUB A5
10 37. One or more computer-readable media storing computer-executable
11 instructions for:

12 receiving a user-entered zip code; and

13 determining corresponding configuration information from the zip code that
14 can be used to configure a computing device.

15 38. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 37, further
16 comprising computer-executable instructions for configuring the computing
17 device using the configuration information.

18
19 39. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 37, further
20 comprising computer-executable instructions for populating data fields used to
21 configure the computing device with the configuration information.

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1 40. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 37,
2 wherein the configuration information includes a time setting, and further
3 comprising computer-executable instructions for automatically configuring the
4 time / date parameters with the time setting.

5
6 41. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 37,
7 wherein the configuration information includes a city name and a state name, and
8 further comprising computer-executable instructions for automatically configuring
9 the city and state names.

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11 42. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 37,
12 wherein the configuration information includes a telephone area code, and further
13 comprising computer-executable instructions for automatically configuring the
14 telephone area code for the computing device.

